

inspection report, CIL is considering granting coal linkage to HBI. Coal linkage to other plants shall be considered by CIL as and when the other parties approach CIL.

Pending Cases in Kerala

6490. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases pending before the High Court of Kerala for disposal; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the early disposal of these cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) As on 31.12.1996, 2,10,303 Civil cases and 7,520 criminal cases were pending in the Kerala High Court.

(b) Apart from amending the procedural laws from time to time, Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Conference of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of Justice are held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored.

North-East Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation

6491. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the financial allocation to the NEHHDC during each of the last three years and proposed to be allocated during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the details of achievement of the NEHHDC during the last three years;

(c) whether a dye-house was established at Guwahati by the NEHHDC in 1984 with financial assistance from the NEC;

(d) whether the activities of the said dye-house was suspended since 1994 for want of working capital; and

(e) if so, the action taken by his Ministry to provide the working capital so that the only dye-house established by the NEHHDC in the North East remain functional ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development

Corporation Ltd., Shillong, during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was allocated a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs each and the proposed allocation during the Ninth Plan period is to the tune of Rs. 5.70 crores.

(b) The turnover of the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation increased from Rs. 4.09 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 5.26 crores during 1995-96. During the last three years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, the Corporation held 83 exhibition for marketing of handicrafts and handlooms of the North Eastern Region, in different parts of the country and nearly 1400 artisans were benefitted directly. The Corporation also participated in India International Trade Fair (IITF) 1995 at New Delhi in which total sales generated was to the tune of Rs. 5.44 lakhs and organised a special North East Craft Fair at Bangalore during 1996-97.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Dye House was established with financial assistance from the Government.

(d) The activities of the dye house were suspended since 1994, due to accumulated losses suffered by it since its inception.

(e) Does not arise.

Problems of Textile Mills

6492. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had convened any meeting of representatives of the Federations of textile sector and the Members of Parliament of various parties for taking steps to solve the problems of textile mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken at the meeting and the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Coal Handling Project

6493. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsreport in the 'Business Standard' dated April 10, 1997 under the caption "Coal handling project to cost Rs. 110 crore more";